

What is Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)?

A Department of Defense program working with civilian and military agencies to provide comprehensive support services to Family members with special needs (chronic medical condition or child in special education/early intervention programs). An Exceptional Family Member (EFM) is defined as any family member who has a physical, emotional, developmental or intellectual disability limiting their ability to function on a daily basis and requiring on-going medical and /or education services and therapy treatment.

Enrollment in the EFMP - 2010 National Defense Authorization Act –
Military OneSource – Public Law No. 111-84
militaryonesource.mil/.../militaryspecialneedsfamilies-their-time-has-come

Overview - Who is eligible?

Per Army Regulation 608-75, Reserve Component (RC), Army National Guard (ARNG) AGR Soldiers must report they have Family members with special needs, and if determined necessary by the Army Medical Department, they are to complete the Medical Summary, form DD 2792 and/or the Special Education Summary, DD 2792-1 to enroll in the EFMP.

Currently, the eligible population in the Army National Guard is **Active Guard Reserve (AGR)** serving under the authority of Title 10 or Title 32 U.S. Code. RC Soldiers called or ordered to active service for more than 30 consecutive days may voluntarily pre-enroll in EFMP when pending deployment or mobilization orders. Pre-enrollment will permit time to process the EFMP application and complete processing for enrollment prior to deployment/ mobilization. Additionally, Soldiers' family members are eligible to enroll in Army Respite Care Program.

The Army originated the concept of EFMP to ensure consideration of medical care at the new location for military Family members' prior to the PCS pinpoint assignment.

Enrollment in the EFMP is quite common. In fact, approximately 10% of all Active Duty Soldiers have Family members with identified special needs.

How Does it Work?

The Army National Guard (ARNG) Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) coordinates with multiagency services to assist eligible Soldiers with identifying the pathway to processing EFMP enrollment applications at the nearest Military Treatment Facilities and identifying eligible status to qualify for EFMP services.

EFMP provides a defined process to screen Exceptional Family Members (EFMs). The program works to coordinate availability of medical and/or educational services prior to the Soldier's new assignment nomination process is completed. CONUS and OCONUS must enroll EFM's with special education and/or medical service needs.

Enrollees must update EFMP enrollment information every three years, or sooner, if there is a change in status and/or the medical condition.

Why Enroll in EFMP?

- Assignment Coordination considers special needs family members during the assignment process and EFMP enrollment.
- Information and Referral services for family support within the military and external community services, i.e. Extended Care Health Option Program services (ECHO Home Health Care and Respite Care Services)
- Education and Outreach
- Location and transition support to new assignment
- Non-clinical case management to monitor availability and accessibility of non-military programs, (e.g. special education, Medicaid, SSI).
- NDAA 2010 Mandate Special Needs Stabilization for minimum of 4 years

EFMP Enrollment Process

The application packet is found at the Army website <http://efmp.amedd.army.mil/> under forms. Title 10 and Title 32 AGR Soldiers should take the DD 2792 / DD 2792-1 form to the nearest Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) EFMP Office with an appointment date to have the proposed EFM evaluated by the EFMP Physician and to complete the application for processing. The MTF will submit the packet to the Regional Health Command (RHC) to process for medical approval and submit to the ARNG EFMP.

To locate the nearest MTF [View Printable MTF List](#). Check website at Health.mil: <http://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Access-Cost-Quality-and-Safety/Access-to-Healthcare/Military-Hospitals-and-Clinics>

Geographically Dispersed (not near a Military Treatment Facility)

If the Soldier is geographically dispersed and does not live near a MTF they may take the EFMP application packet to the TRICARE Remote Primary Physician to complete. The completed packet should be taken or emailed to the nearest MTF EFMP Coordinator Office for review by the EFMP Physician and to process for administrative review, verify signatures and approve application by applying the MTF stamp on page three of the DD 2792. After administrative approval, the MTF EFMP Coordinator will forward the packet to the Regional Health Command (RHC) for final review and medical approval. Upon approval, the RHC emails packet to ARNG EFMP Office to determine eligibility and to complete the official EFMP enrollment memo.

The ARNG EFMP Coordinator only receives EFMP packets from the RHC after processed and approved. Once the Soldier's status is verified, the enrollment memorandum is emailed by the ARNG EFMP Coordinator to the Soldier and courtesy copies sent to the appropriate State AGR Manager and AGR Title 10 Assignments Officer/NCO.

For any questions, concerns and guidance regarding the ARNG EFMP and the application process, submit questions to the Army National Guard EFMP Coordinator Office mailbox at ng.ncr.ngb-arng.mbx.arng-efmp@mail.mil. No EFMP applications are accepted at this mailbox. AMRDEC SAFE is a safe access file exchange is used to transfer large files in a secure method with when sending applications. SAFE website is <https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/SAFE/>

ARNG Enrollment Tips

DEERS Profile must be updated and accurate. Check by visiting ID cards or locate nearest office at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl. Soldier can call 1.800.538.9552

Soldier must be enrolled in TRICARE PRIME at MTF or Remote "TPR" www.tricare.mil

National Guard Soldiers serving under the authority of Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Title 10 or Title 32, should mark ACTIVE GUARD on the DD 2792, section 3e. If not, the EFMP Enrollment packet maybe delayed. *MTF EFMP Office must write NG/AGR on the EFMP application for proper identification and minimizing processing delays.*

Soldiers enrolled in the EFMP should retain a copy of the stamped and signed DD 2792 application packet from the MTF EFMP Coordinator for your records.

Ensure EFMP memo is designated in Soldier's personnel records and/or check the database ARNG Full Time Support Management Control System (FTSMCS).

Assignment Process and EFMP

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) works in concert with the HCM Career Manager to coordinate with MEDCOM Special Needs Advisors and new duty location to verify medical care availability for Soldier's EFM prior to finalizing a pinpoint assignment. Upon the written request, via email from a State AGR Manager or the AGR Career Assignments Manager, the ARNG EFMP Coordinator will conduct a coordination of care, nominative inquiry.

What is a Nominative Inquiry?

It is a process to coordinate and communicate with the MEDCOM liaison, Special Needs Advisors, AGR Family Travel, the Assignments' Officer/NCO Career Managers

and AGR State Managers to consider a suitable duty assignment for the Soldier's special needs family member prior to a new pinpoint assignment during the assignment nomination process.

Assignment coordination is important to determine if appropriate medical and educational services are available and may be accessed. In order for the EFM's needs to be considered during the assignment coordination process, the Soldier's family must enroll in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

The Assignment Coordination occurs when the HCM, Personnel Service Branch, (S-1 or MPD), AGR Manager request the EFMP Coordinator submit the DA 7413, EFMP Assignment Coordination Sheet to the MEDCOM Special Needs Advisors during the nominative inquiry phase of the CONUS or OCONUS assignment process. DOD Military Treatment Facility Special Needs Advisors synchronize and coordinate with medical professionals (CONUS or OCONUS) to review a family member's documented EFMP application packet for care needs and determine availability and access of services at projected new assignment location. EFMP Coordinator verifies decision on the assignment nomination request.

Respite Care Program Services

The Army Respite Care Program information may be found at the website www.naccrra.org/military-families/army/army-respite-program. EFMP enrollment is a prerequisite. Respite Care enrollment is based on eligibility status and reviewed to determine eligibility at the local installation level.

TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) Services

The Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) are support services to assist eligible beneficiaries with financial assistance to families with special needs for an integrated services and supplies.

To use ECHO, qualified beneficiaries must:

- Be enrolled in the [Exceptional Family Member Program \(EFMP\)](#) through the sponsor's branch of service
- Register for ECHO with case managers in each TRICARE region

ELIGIBILITY

The following beneficiaries who are diagnosed with moderate or severe mental retardation, a serious physical disability, or an extraordinary physical or psychological condition may qualify for ECHO:

- Active duty family members
- Family members of activated National Guard/Reserve members
- Family members who are covered under the Transitional Assistance Management Program
- Children or spouses of former service members who are victims of abuse and qualify for the Transitional Compensation Program
- Family members of deceased active duty sponsors while they are considered "transitional survivors."

Children may remain eligible for ECHO benefits beyond the usual TRICARE eligibility age limit (age 21 or age 23 if enrolled in a full-time course of study at an approved institution of higher learning and if the sponsor provides over 50 percent of the financial support) provided all of the following are true:

1. The sponsor remains on active duty
2. The child is incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapacity that occurs prior to the loss of eligibility
3. The sponsor is responsible for over 50 percent of the child's financial support.

ECHO BENEFITS

ECHO provides coverage for the following products and services* :

- Assistive services (e.g., those from a qualified interpreter or translator)
- Durable equipment, including adaptation and maintenance equipment
- Expanded in-home medical services through TRICARE ECHO Home Health Care (EHHC) (limited to the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands)
- Rehabilitative services
- Respite care (during any month when at least one other ECHO benefit is received and limited to the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands)
- ECHO respite care: up to 16 hours of care in any calendar month in which they also receive any other ECHO authorized benefit other than the EHHC benefit
 - EHHC respite care: up to eight hours per day, five days per week (for those who qualify)
 - Training to use special education and assistive technology devices
- Institutional care when a residential environment is required
- Transportation to and from institutions or facilities in certain circumstances

TRICARE does not pay for services provided by family members, trainers, or other individuals who are not TRICARE authorized.

EFMP Information and Contact:**Army National Guard EFMP mailing address**

Army National Guard Directorate,
ATTN: ARNG-HRS-F (EFMP Coordinator)
111 South George Mason Drive,
Arlington, VA 22204-1382

For EFMP information and resources are located at the Army Medical Command website <http://efmp.amedd.army.mil/>

The ARNG EFMP Coordinator may be reached at (703) 607-3434 or DSN 327-3434.